



Centreville Labor Resource Center

YEAR 2, VOLUME 5

MAY 2013

"You are as welcome as the flowers of MAY"-Macklin

Spring and the CLRC are blooming along. This month has been busy and has seen a 15% job increase in employment year to date! Also, we're getting ready to welcome our summer Interns!!! So stay tuned to meet them in the upcoming newsletter. ***Reminder next CIF Board Meeting on June 25th @7pm* *CIF sponsored Town hall meeting to discuss Immigration Reform. June 24th 7PM Centreville Regional Library.**

WORKSHOP UPDATE

May has been a busy month for CLRC workers! In early May, CLRC's art workshops continued with the help of volunteer Teri Thomas. A group of workers, staff and volunteers learned the basics of brush strokes and the use of texture in painting. The group then used photos of the cherry blossoms in

About 15 workers participated in a communication and leadership workshop this month. The group discussed the sources of prejudice and fear in our community. The group of workers wisely concluded that despite the differences that exist in communities like Centreville, we all depend on each other and the source of prejudice is a lack of communication.



WORKERS IN THE NEW SHIRTS



Art Workshop

downtown DC to practice new skills. This workshop was an excellent team building experience for all and next month CLRC plans to host another workshop. This project will slowly work toward hosting an exhibition event where workers can show off their new skills.

Workers then talked about how they can overcome their own misconceptions about others in the community. The workshop group concluded that it is important to learn English and participate more in community activities and events so that they are seen in a more positive way in the community.

UMC CELEBRATION DINNER

Staff and a handful of workers participated in the Centreville United Methodist Church's Mission Celebration Dinner on May 20th. The team had the privilege of mingling with UMC pastors, volunteers and members and had a chance to meet other groups that the church supports. A delicious spaghetti dinner was also enjoyed by all.

NEW WORKER SHIRTS-THANKS TO DR. AUÑON, DDS AND AMERIMAC LTD

The CLRC sends a big Thank You to the office of Dr. Auñon, DDS and Amerimac LTD for their donation of over 100 shirts for CLRC workers. These shirts include our phone number and website and we hope that they will help with our publicity efforts this summer. Thank you and Gracias!

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Do you have experience in a skilled trade and a desire to help your community? The CLRC is currently recruiting volunteer instructors to teach workshops in skill areas such as painting, drywall, carpentry, tiling and flooring, and more! Spanish skills aren't necessary, we can translate. Workshops will start in the fall to make use of workers' spare time

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during the slow season. If you are interested in helping people learn skills that will help them excel for the rest of their lives, let us know! As we say in the CLRC “You spend the money you earn, but no one can take your education away from you”.

Would you like to help the CLRC increase employment?

We have a few ideas about how you can help! Opportunities to help our program are fun and do not require more than a few hours per month. Possible ways to help include hanging flyers in your favorite coffee shops and restaurants or hosting speakers from the CLRC at meetings of groups you may belong to, such as the Rotary Club or even at your own home.

Staff and workers strive to be constantly present in our community and are always looking for creative ways to get the word out about who we are and what we do!



The importance of giving back

THE STORY OF MILKSHAKE

The custom of nicknaming is fading in our fast-paced society. We find that this intimacy in renaming is becoming less common in a world where we are in constant motion, living a few years in one place, a few in another and rarely finding friends that are close enough to rename us. This tradition is still alive among many of the laborers in Centreville. Most of the men are in constant contact with each other, whether at home, on the soccer field or at work. Most come from inside jokes that I can't even begin to unravel while others can even be malicious. But one nickname stuck out in particular because of its seemingly inexplicable origin.

There is a man that everyone calls “milkshake”. Milkshake is the kind of person that intimidates a lot of

people, not because of his physical stature because he is quite small, and no one has ever known him to physically hurt anyone.



The intimidation comes from a mix of sadness and intelligence that is apparent from the way he stares into the eyes of every person he meets.

His quick wit and honesty that make him so extraordinary also make him unpopular with most other workers. He wears his life in the US on his skin. His hands are mangled from an accident with a wood chipper. He has scars on his arms from other accidents with machinery that are so numerous that their stories could fill an entire book. It was beyond belief that a person this formidable would be called “milkshake”.

I came to learn that Milkshake's name came from a rumored bout of insanity when he first came to this country in which he consumed nothing but milkshakes and smoothies for months. “Things happen to people when they come here, horrible things can happen on the journey that make some men crazy” a worker told me while explaining Milkshake's origin.

The truth about Milkshake came to light when we went on a visit to speak to a community group about the center. He told the story of his first months in the US. He had gotten work with a contractor that did duct work in office buildings and warehouses. He learned the work quickly and was soon working without supervision. He was replacing the drop tiles after a job one day when he lost his balance on the extension ladder and fell 20 feet onto the concrete. His jaw was shattered and he nearly died from his injuries. Thankfully he had an employer that was willing to help pay the hospital bills.

He later told me that his jaw was wired shut for months and that he was unable to eat solid food for half a year, hence, the milkshakes. “You do know most people think you went crazy right?” I ask him. “Yes, but if I tried to correct all the rumors of gossips I would have no time to live my own life, I don't need their pity, it isn't dignified to share your story of suffering with the whole world”. I can't argue with that. As I said, he is a formidable man.

TESTIMONIAL FROM A VERY HAPPY EMPLOYER

"I hired 3 workers to help out on a 3-day patio build job. Everything from the initial dig to the last stone laid was neatly and efficiently done. The guys were responsible and eager to help me complete this project. I will definitely use the CLRC for my next home improvement project."

HOW TO HIRE A WORKER FROM THE CLRC

If you have work you'd like some help on and would like to hire a worker, follow these simple steps:

1. Call us 703.543.6272 or visit us on the web at www.centrevilleLRC.org and click on the "How to Hire" link.
2. Tell us what kind of work you need, how many workers you need and when you need them for.
3. We will match your needs to our registered workers skills and set up the job.
4. Negotiate the price for work.
5. Provide us with feedback after the job to ensure we're doing great work, that you are satisfied and that our workers are fairly paid.



Patio job

It's that easy!!! The CLRC serves businesses and homeowners who need help with just about any home remodel or maintenance project.



Working on drywall repairs